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ADVENTURE
SERIES



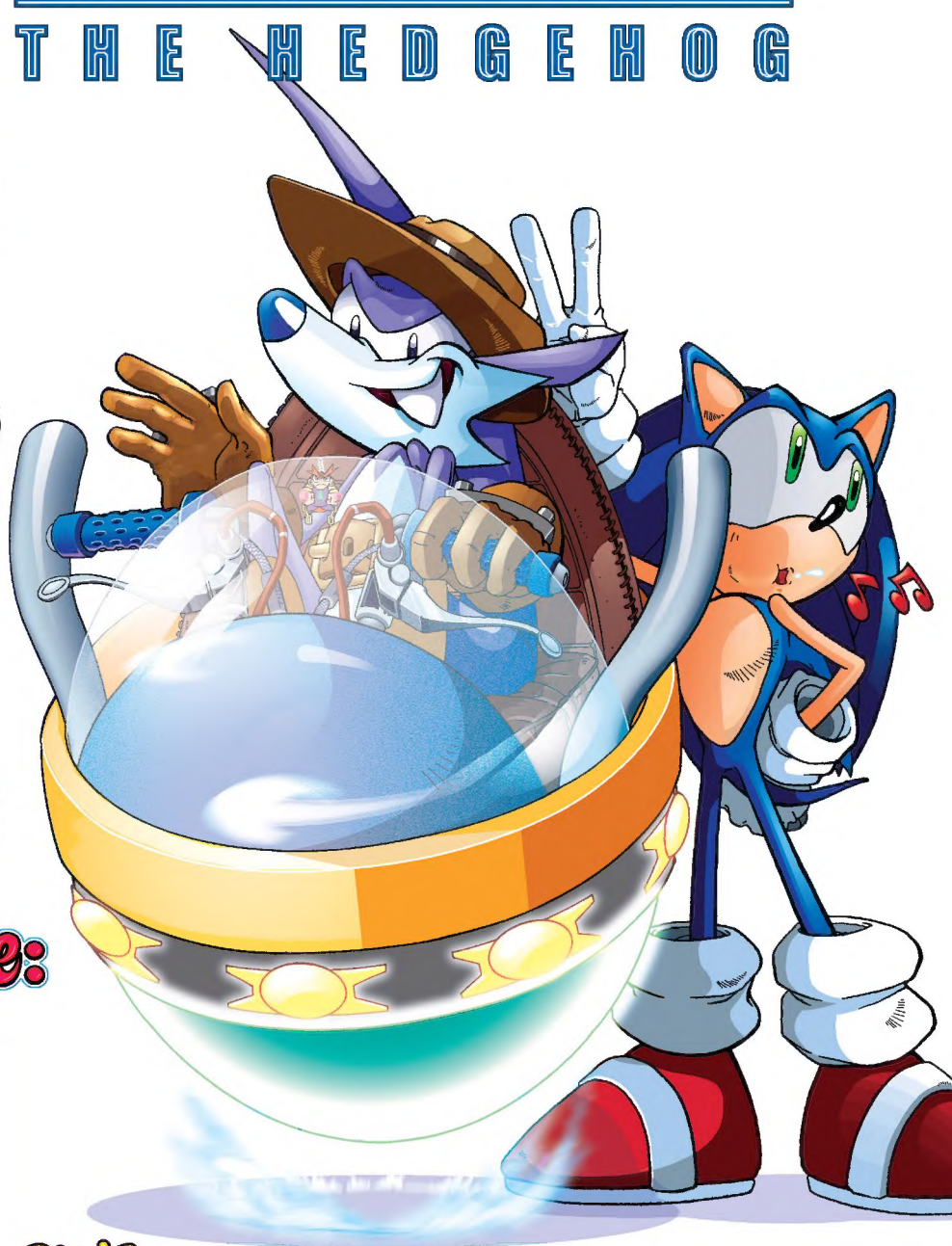
SEGA

SONIC™

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CODE
AUTHORITY

THE HEDGEHOG

NACK
IS BACK TO
INTERRUPT
SONIC'S
LOVE
TRIANGLE
TROUBLE
IN THREE,
TWO—
**"Heart
Held
Hostage:
PART ONE"**



PLUS:

WHAT DOES
AN ECHIDNA
DO WITH HIMSELF
"AFTERLIFE" IS
OVER? FIND
OUT IN OUR
LATEST
KNUCKLES'
CHAPTER



HOW DO A
CYBERNETIC ECHIDNA
AND A HIP-HOP
CROC PUT PAST
DIFFERENCES
BEHIND THEM—
JULIE-SU AND
VECTOR HAVE
THE ANSWER



SPAZ
KITBEIRO



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KARL BOLLERS & J. AXER
PRESENT

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

"Heart Held Hostage"

IN

CONOR TOMAS
INKER

JASON JENSEN
COLORIST

JEFF POWELL
LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

VICTOR SCRELIK
MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

part
one

SPRINGTIME IN
KNOTHOLE...

WRONG
NOTE, SON.

SORRY,
DAD!

GEE, MISTER
HEDGEHOG, IF YOU
KNOW SO MUCH
ABOUT MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS...

...WHY
DON'T YOU
PLAY 'EM
ANYMORE?

THESE ROBOTICIZED
FINGERS AREN'T NEARLY NIMBLE
ENOUGH TO PLUCK THOSE GUITAR
STRINGS, TAILS...

...BUT I CAN
STILL TEACH MY
BOY HOW!





AND, AS THE BLUE BLUR
CONTINUES TO PLAY VARIOUS
CHORDS...

... MANY
GATHER...



... AND A CROWD SOON
FORMS AROUND THE
HEDGEHOG FAMILY HUT.

AMONG
WHICH ARE...

... SOME VERY
FAMILIAR FACES.



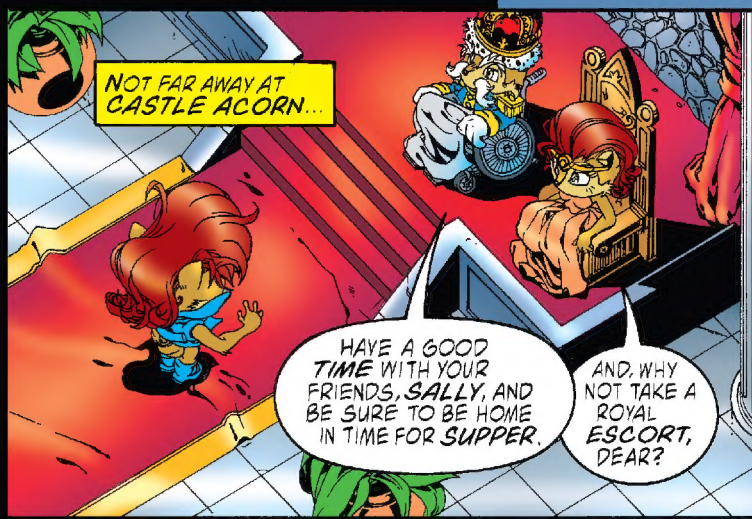
HE'S A
NATURAL BORN
TALENT!

SO SUAVE...
SO SKILLED...
SO...

...SO
SONIC!



WELL,
MINA GIRL,
HERE GOES
NOTHING!



NOT FAR AWAY AT CASTLE ACORN...

HAVE A GOOD TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS, SALLY, AND BE SURE TO BE HOME IN TIME FOR SUPPER.

AND, WHY NOT TAKE A ROYAL ESCORT, DEAR?



DON'T WORRY, MOM AND DAD...



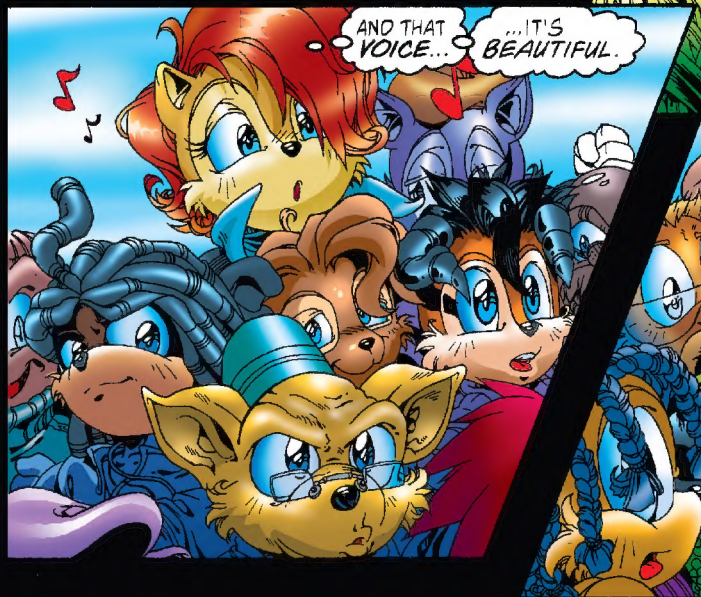
...I WON'T BE NEEDING ONE.

WHAT? IS IT MY COLOGNE?



SOON...

THAT GUITAR RIFF, SO RAW... SO PASSIONATE ...SO SONIC!

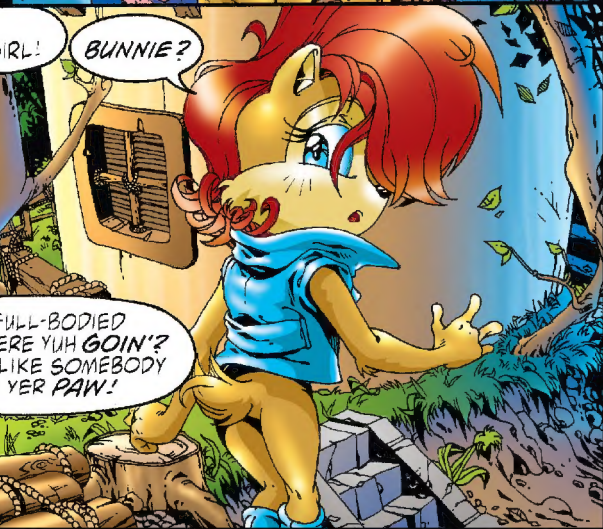
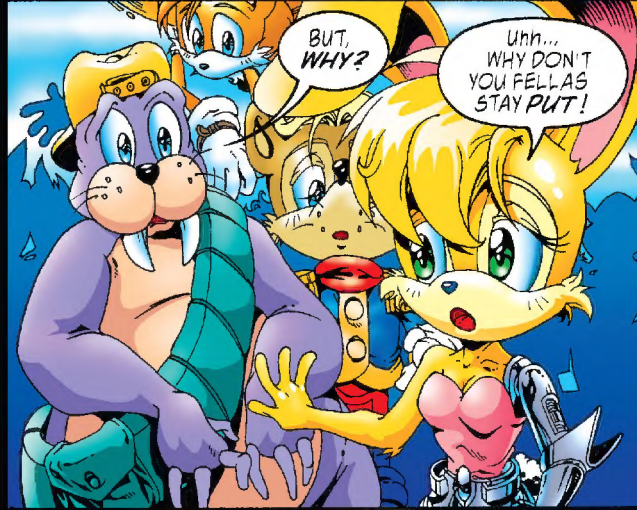


AND THAT VOICE...

...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.



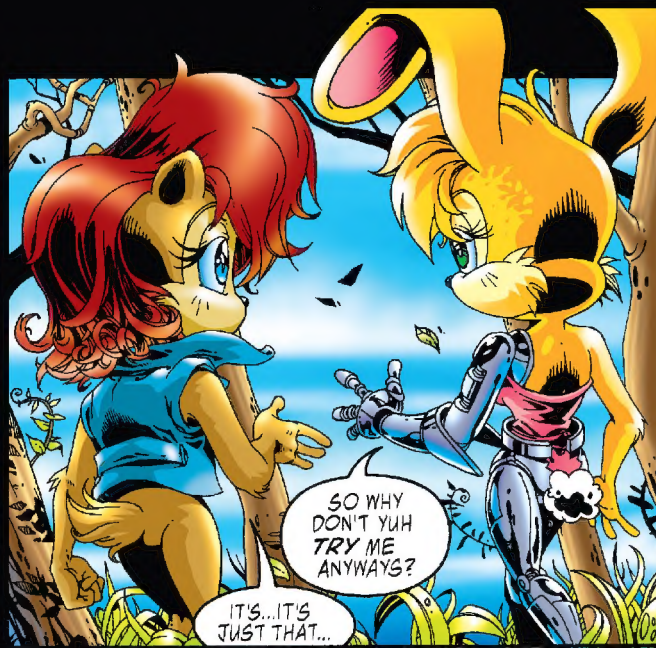
LIKE AN ANGEL... IT'S...





SERIOUSLY, GIRLFRIEND, IT'S MEI AH RECKON SUMTHIN'S BOTHERIN' YUH.

IT'S NOTHING. IT'S SILLY, ACTUALLY.



SO WHY DON'T YUH TRY ME ANYWAYS?

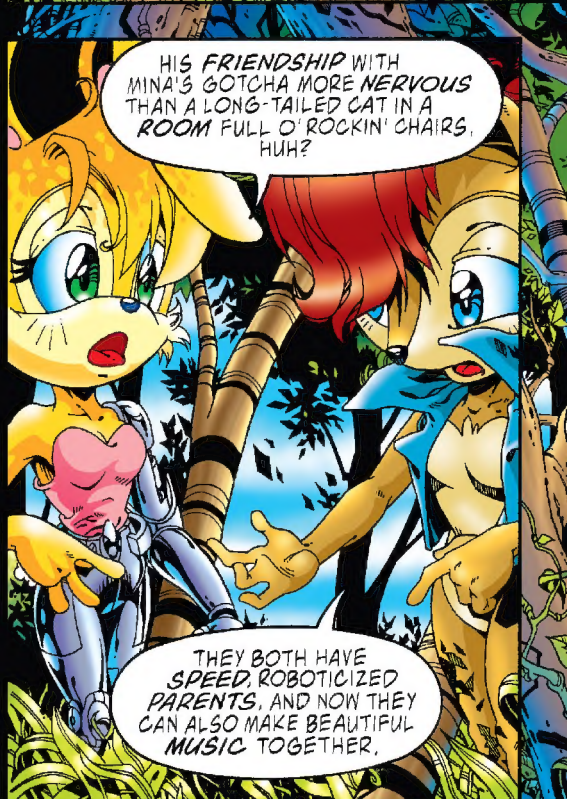
IT'S...IT'S JUST THAT...



...WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT SONIC AND I WERE SOUL MATES...

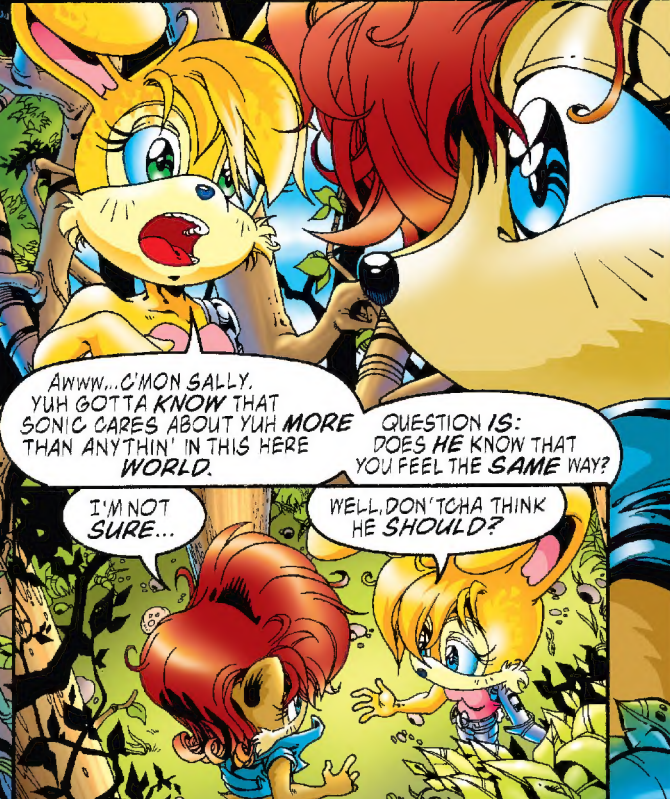
...THAT SOMEDAY WE'D EVENTUALLY BE TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?

WELL, LATELY I'M NOT SO SURE.



HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH MINA'S GOTCHA MORE NERVOUS THAN A LONG-TAILED CAT IN A ROOM FULL O' ROCKIN' CHAIRS, HUH?

THEY BOTH HAVE SPEED, ROBOTICIZED PARENTS, AND NOW THEY CAN ALSO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER.



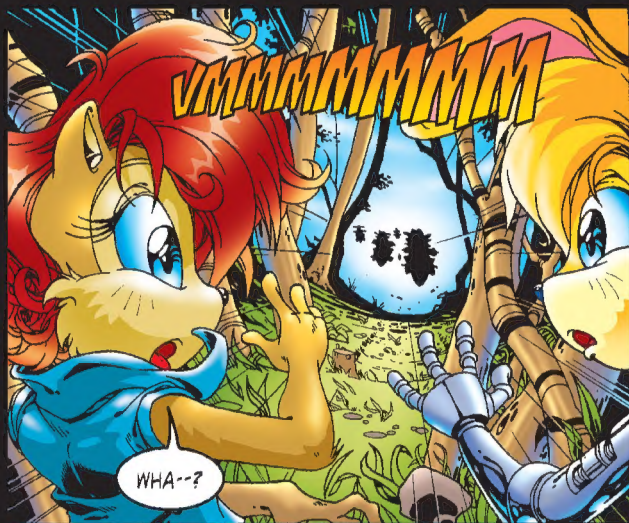
AWWW...O'MON SALLY, YUH GOTTA KNOW THAT SONIC CARES ABOUT YUH MORE THAN ANYTHIN' IN THIS HERE WORLD.

QUESTION IS: DOES HE KNOW THAT YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY?

I'M NOT SURE...

WELL, DON'TOCHA THINK HE SHOULD?





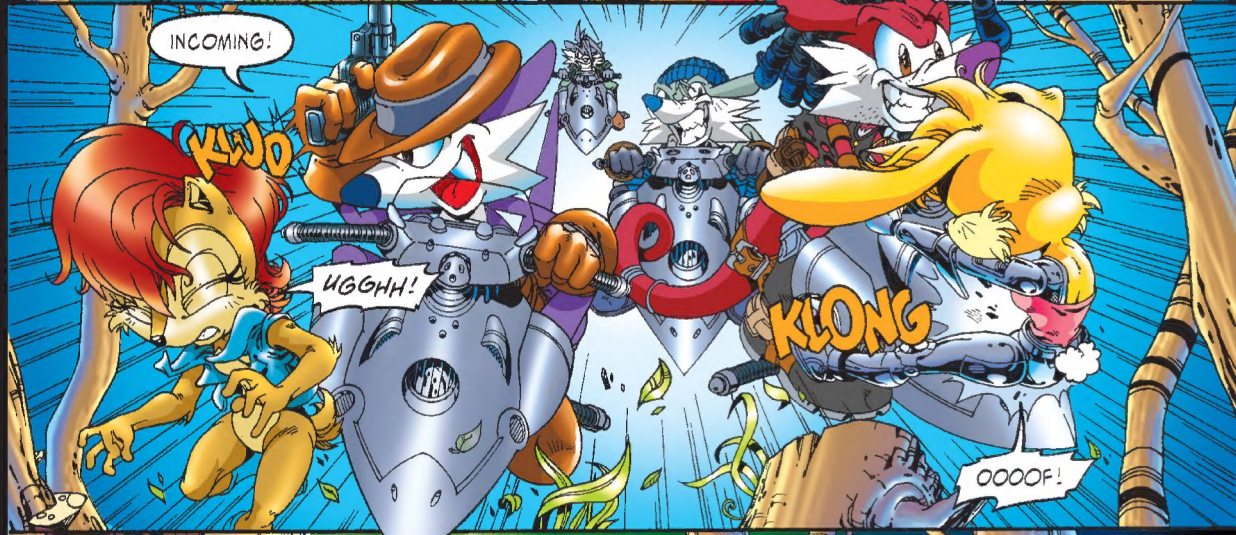
WHA--?



AWESOME!

YEAH!

FREEBIRD!



INCOMING!

KWO

UGGHH!

KLONG

OOOOF!



WELL, I GUESS THE VERDICT IS IN! NOT ONLY ARE YOU MOBIUS' NUMBER ONE HERO, YOU ALSO WAIL ON GUITAR!

YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF!

WELL, I MAY NOT BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER...



KRUNCH

NOW THAT DIDN'T SOUND GOOD AT ALL!

S-SAY, SONIC... I-I WAS W-WONDERING...

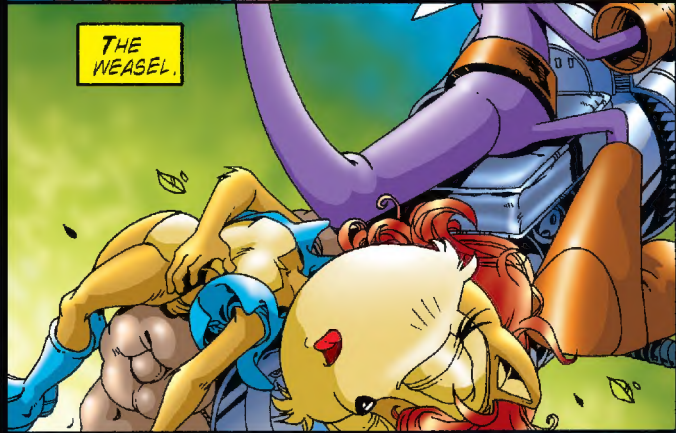
HM?



I--

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, CHUMPS!

NACK!



THE WEASEL.

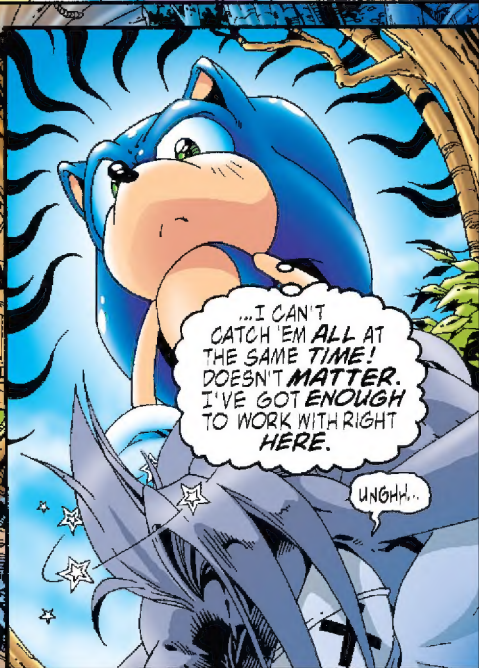
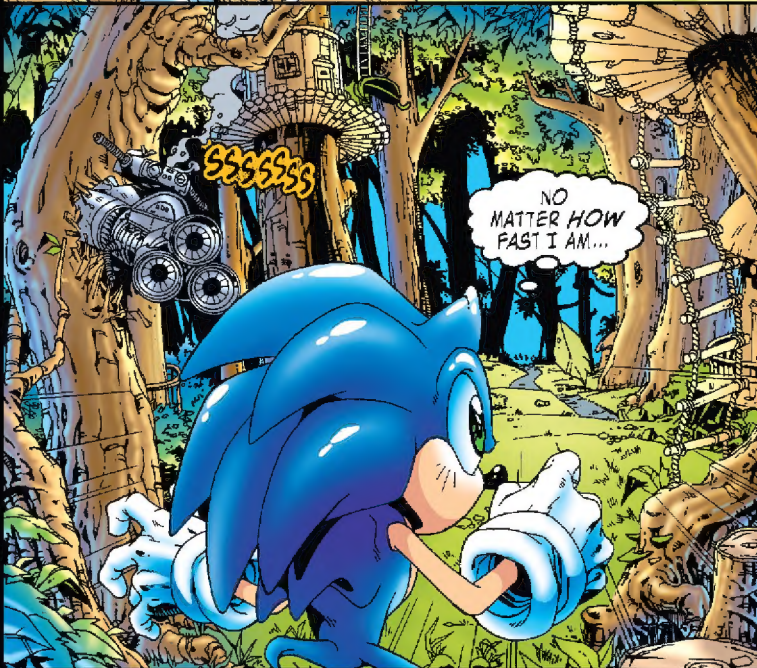
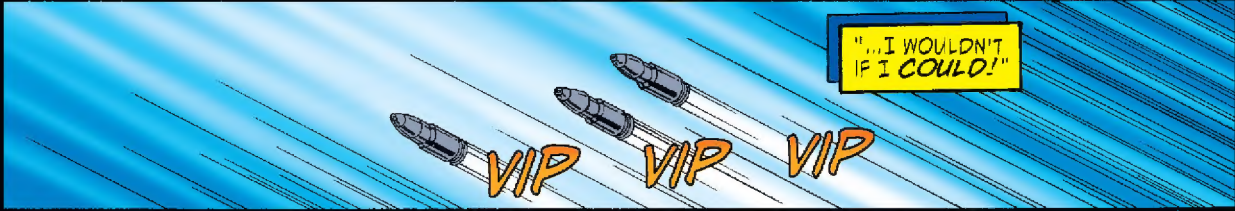
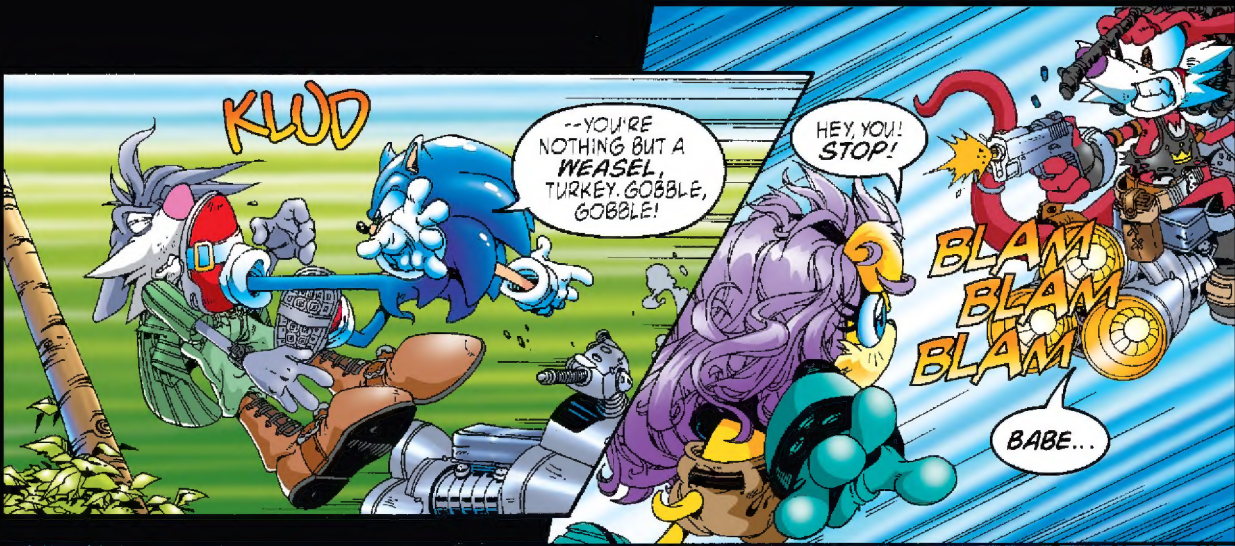


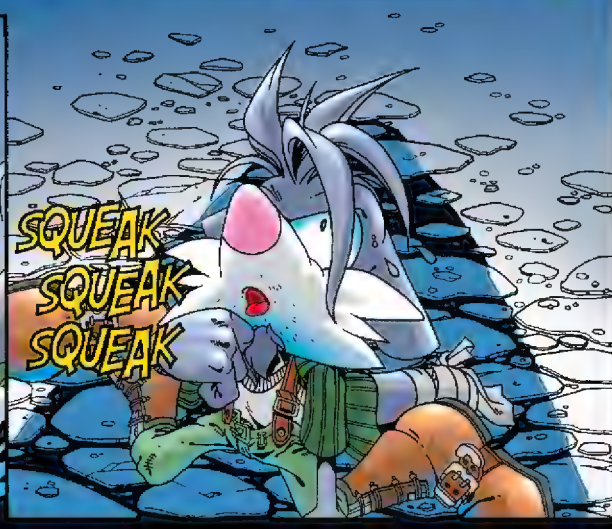
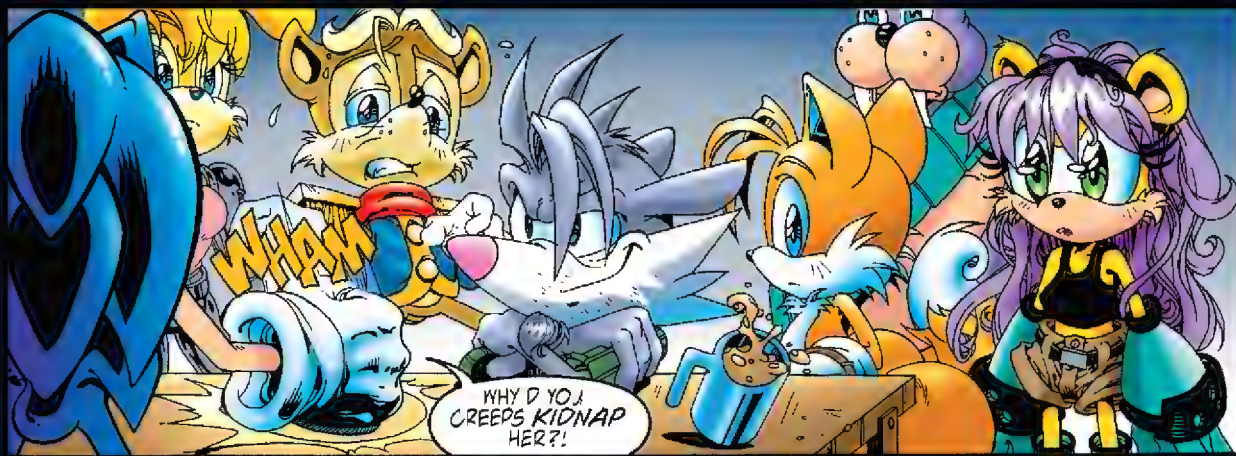
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD GAME OF CHICKEN, HOG!

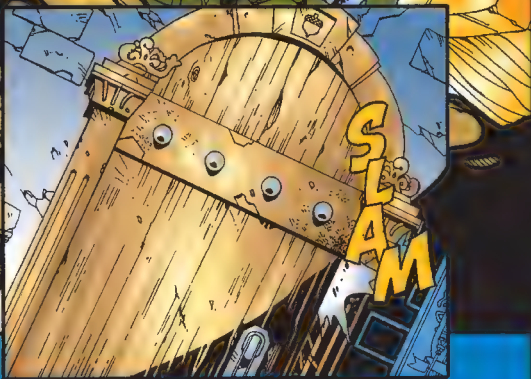
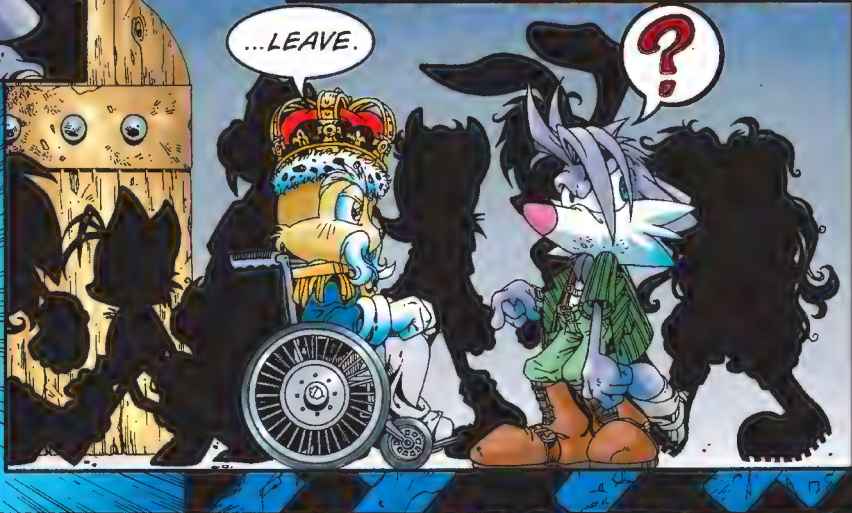
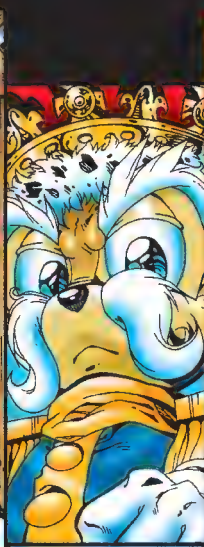
TOO BAD--



HE'S GOT SAL! SAL!!









WHY'D KING MAX MAKE US LEAVE?

MAYBE HE HAD A GOOD REASON...

THEY'VE TAKEN HER NINETY LEAGUES NORTH BY EIGHTY-NINE DEGREES NORTHWEST--

--TO AN OLD MANSION PASSED DOWN TO NACK BY HIS WEASEL ANCESTORS.



HOW'D YOU GET HIM TO TALK, YOUR HIGHNESS?



LET'S SAY I MADE HIM AN OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE.

OH, MAX...

WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THESE THIEVES--



--I'LL --I LL--
--SONIC! I NEED YOU TO--



SONIC!

SONIC?

TO BE CONTINUED!

WHILE EVERYONE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND BELIEVES

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

HAS DIED, OUR FAVORITE ECHIDNA IS EXPERIENCING A DIFFERENT REALITY ALTOGETHER...

AFTERLIFE

Part Two

WAIT!

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUARDIANS?!!



IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--
KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT & INKS
ART MAWHINNEY-PENCILS
VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER
J. JENSEN-COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!

YOU GUYS GOT A NAME?



CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING?!!

HOLD ON A SEC--!!!

HUH?!





WHERE'D YOU GO ?!

HEY!!!

ANYBODY HERE?!!



WHOA! WHO TURNED ON THE SPOTLIGHT ?!!



DO NOT FEAR, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

YOU ARE FAR FROM ALONE!

YEAH, WELL--



PARDON ME IF I CAN'T SEE THE CROWD!

EVER THE DOUBTFUL ONE!

ALWAYS EXISTING IN THE HERE AND NOW!



HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF WHAT I'M LIKE ?



I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, KNUCKLES!

RIIIIGHT!
LET ME GUESS--YOU'RE ANOTHER RELATIVE NO ONE EVER TOLD ME ABOUT!



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!

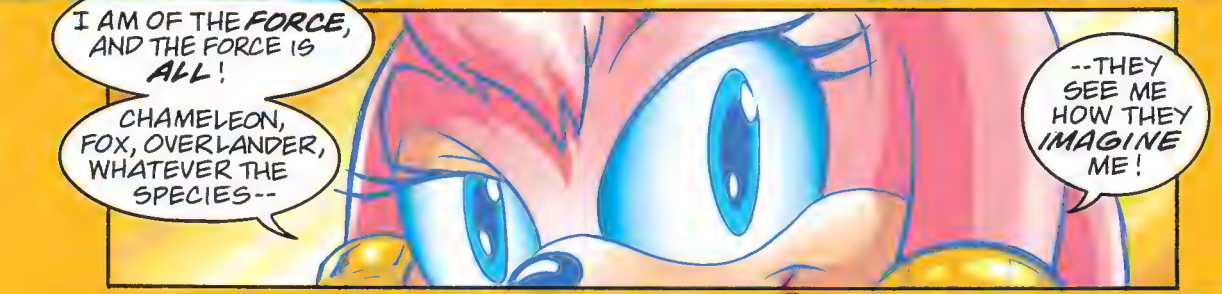
I AM AURORA!

BUT YOU'RE-- YOU'RE--

--AN ECHIDNA?



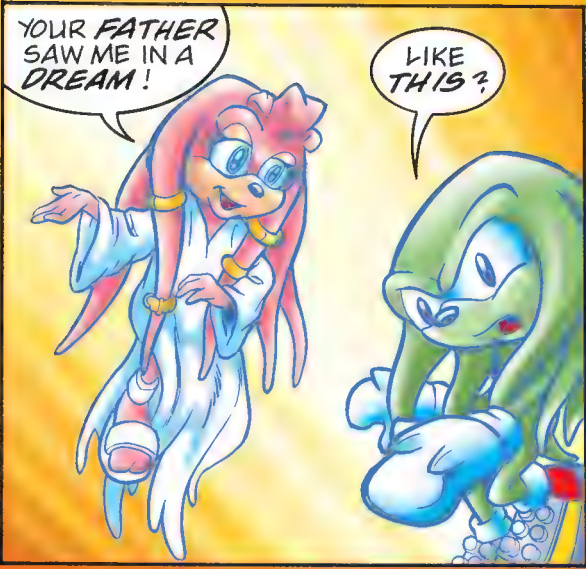
THIS IS WHAT YOU COMPREHEND SO THIS IS WHAT YOU PERCEIVE!



I AM OF THE FORCE, AND THE FORCE IS ALL!

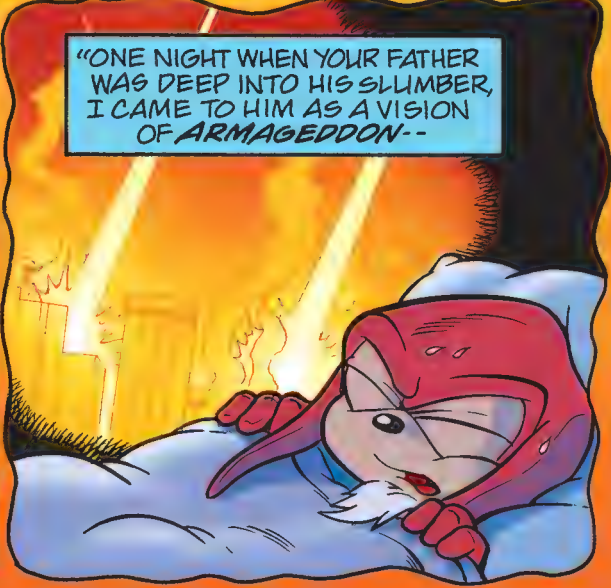
CHAMELEON, FOX, OVERLANDER, WHATEVER THE SPECIES--

--THEY SEE ME HOW THEY IMAGINE ME!



YOUR FATHER SAW ME IN A DREAM!

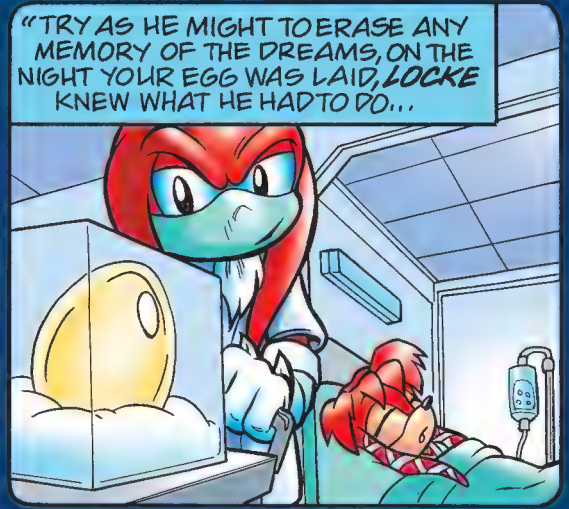
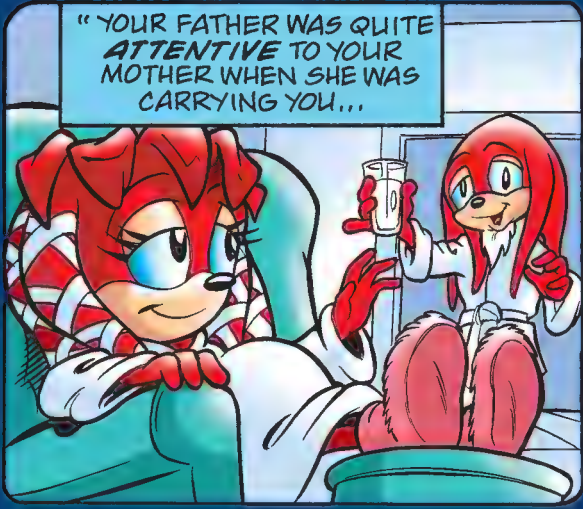
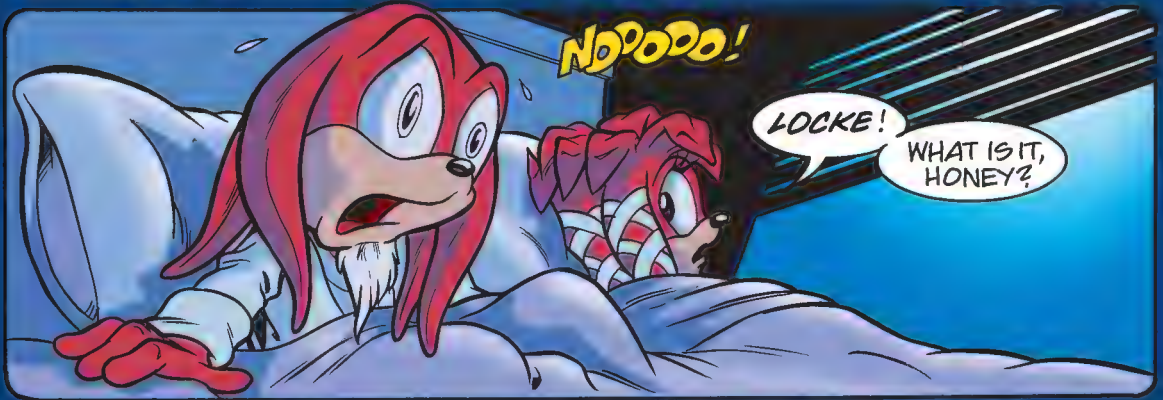
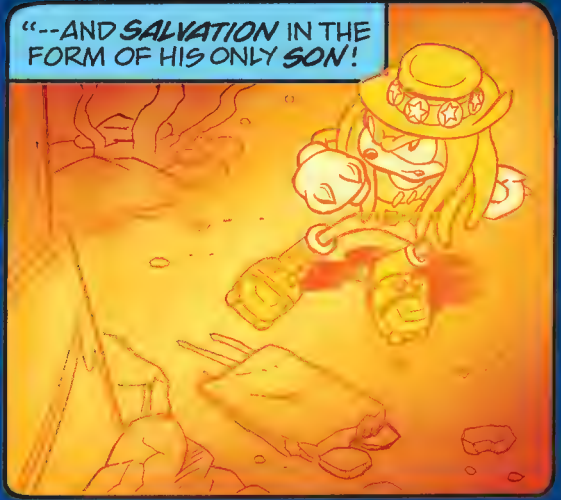
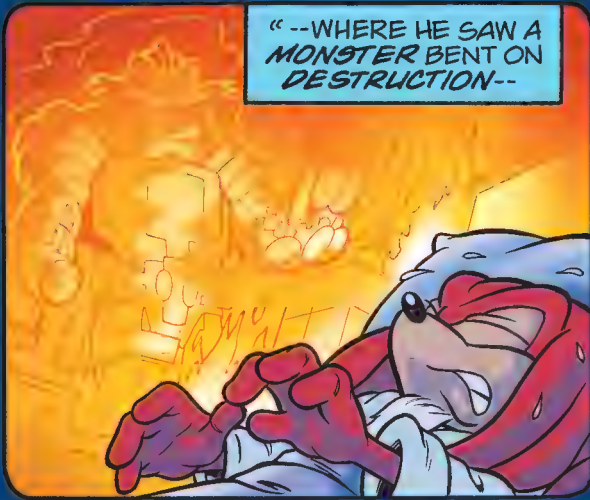
LIKE THIS?



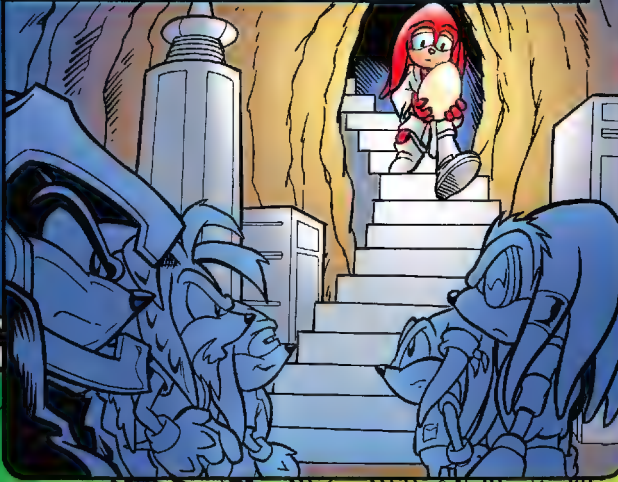
"ONE NIGHT WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS DEEP INTO HIS SLUMBER, I CAME TO HIM AS A VISION OF ARMAGEDDON--"

"--WHERE HE SAW A MONSTER BENT ON DESTRUCTION--"

"--AND SALVATION IN THE FORM OF HIS ONLY SON!"



" IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE TRAVELED TO THE **CHAOS CHAMBER** WHERE THE **BROTHERHOOD** AWAITED THE BOTH OF YOU...

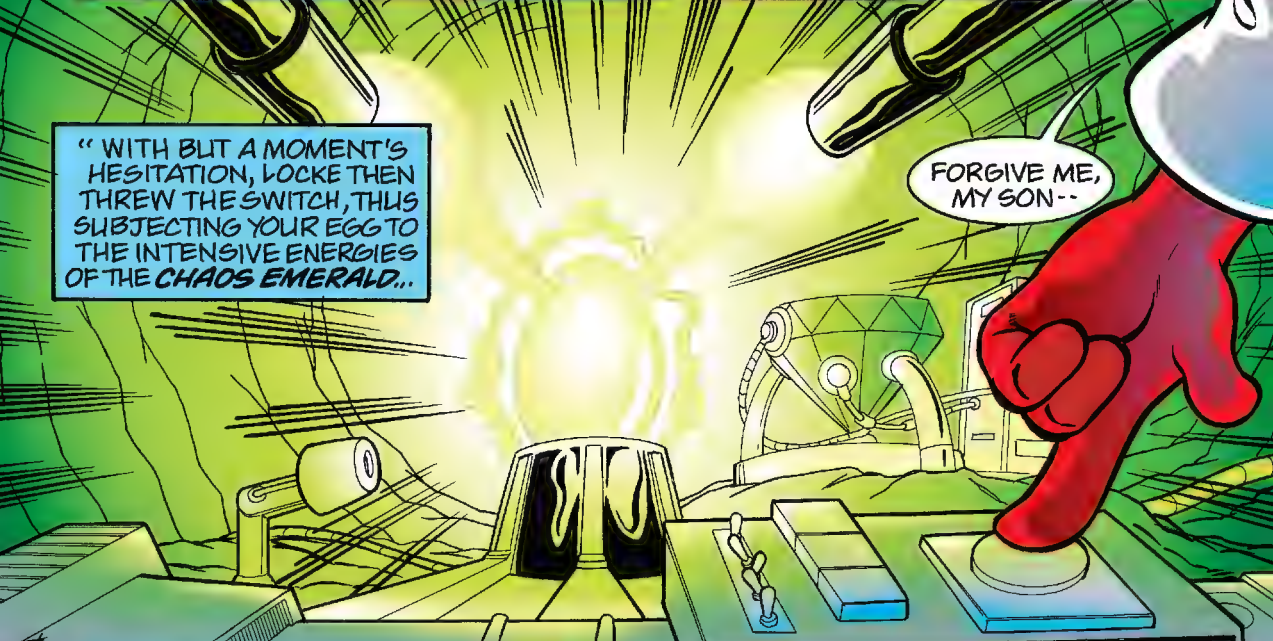


IF ONLY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO HAD WORKED ON ME, MY SON--

--BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE!

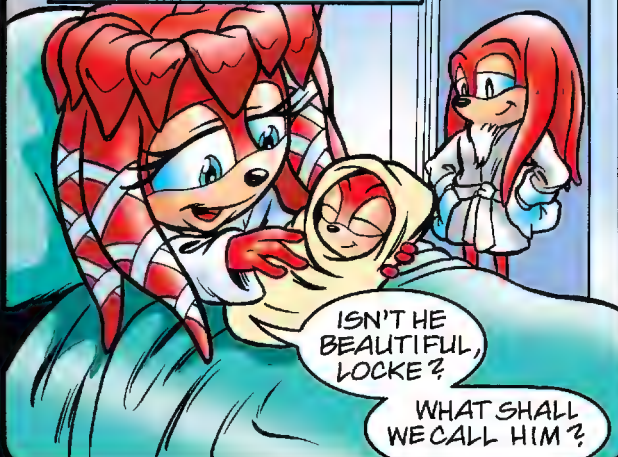


" WITH BUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, LOCKE THEN THREW THE SWITCH, THUS SUBJECTING YOUR EGG TO THE INTENSIVE ENERGIES OF THE **CHAOS EMERALD**...



FORGIVE ME, MY SON--

"LESS THAN A DAY LATER, YOU WERE HATCHED, YOUR MOTHER UNWARE OF YOUR TRUE NATURE...



ISN'T HE BEAUTIFUL, LOCKE?

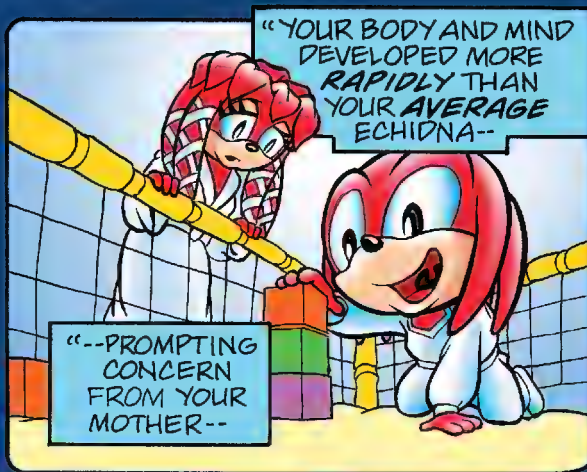
WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM?

HE SHOWS A LOT OF SPUNK FOR A NEWBORN!

WE SHALL CALL HIM **KNUCKLES**--

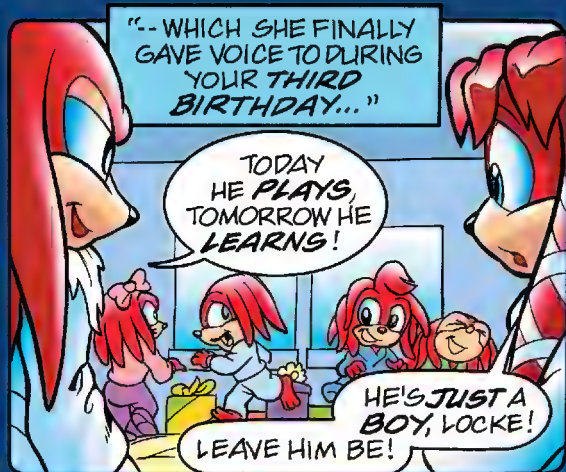
--AFTER THE **WARRIOR TRIBE** HIS FAMILY DESCENDED FROM!





"YOUR BODY AND MIND DEVELOPED MORE RAPIDLY THAN YOUR AVERAGE ECHIDNA--"

"--PROMPTING CONCERN FROM YOUR MOTHER--"



"-- WHICH SHE FINALLY GAVE VOICE TO DURING YOUR THIRD BIRTHDAY..."

TODAY HE **PLAYS**, TOMORROW HE **LEARNS!**

HE'S **JUST A BOY**, LOCKE!

LEAVE HIM BE!



HE IS A **GUARDIAN-TO-BE**, LARA-LE!

THERE IS MUCH TO BE TAUGHT!

OTHER CHILDREN DON'T START SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE AT LEAST A **YEAR OLDER!**



KNUCKLES IS **NOT** LIKE OTHER CHILDREN!

HIS **DESTINY** HAS BEEN **PRE-ORDAINED!**

DURING THE NEXT YEAR, LARA-LE AND LOCKE WOULD BATTLE CONSTANTLY OVER YOU!

EVENTUALLY, YOUR MOTHER BOWED TO THE **INEVITABLE!**

AS SOON AS THE DIVORCE WAS **FINALIZED**, LOCKE RELOCATED BACK TO THE FLOATING ISLAND WITH YOU AT HIS SIDE!



SO, THEN WHAT?

BE HERE NEXT ISSUE TO FIND OUT!

JULIE-SU IS STANDING
INSIDE THE HABITAT
WHERE

KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA

ONCE LIVED.

NOW, AS SHE SURVEYS
ALL THAT REMAINS,
SHE CONTEMPLATES
HER RELATIONSHIP
WITH HER CLOSEST
FRIEND...

ALL THE TIME
I EVER SAW
KNUCKLES--

-- AND NOT
ONCE DID I
EVER IMAGINE
HE LIKED TO
READ!

Julie Su
and
**VECTOR THE
CROCODILE**
in
**WHEN
THERE WAS
ONLY ONE
GAURDIAN**



SHOWS WHAT
I KNOW!

WITH THE USUAL GANG--
KEN PENDERS- SCRIPT & INKS DAWN BEST-PENCILS VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERS
JENSEN - COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE- EDITOR
-- REMINISCING ABOUT EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA!

WHAT REALLY
GETS ME IS THIS!
KNOWING
I MATTERED
TO HIM--



--BUT NOT KNOWING HOW MUCH
UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!

HUH?!!



WHAT
CHU' THINK
YOU'RE DOIN'
INSIDE
THE MAN'S
CRIB?!!



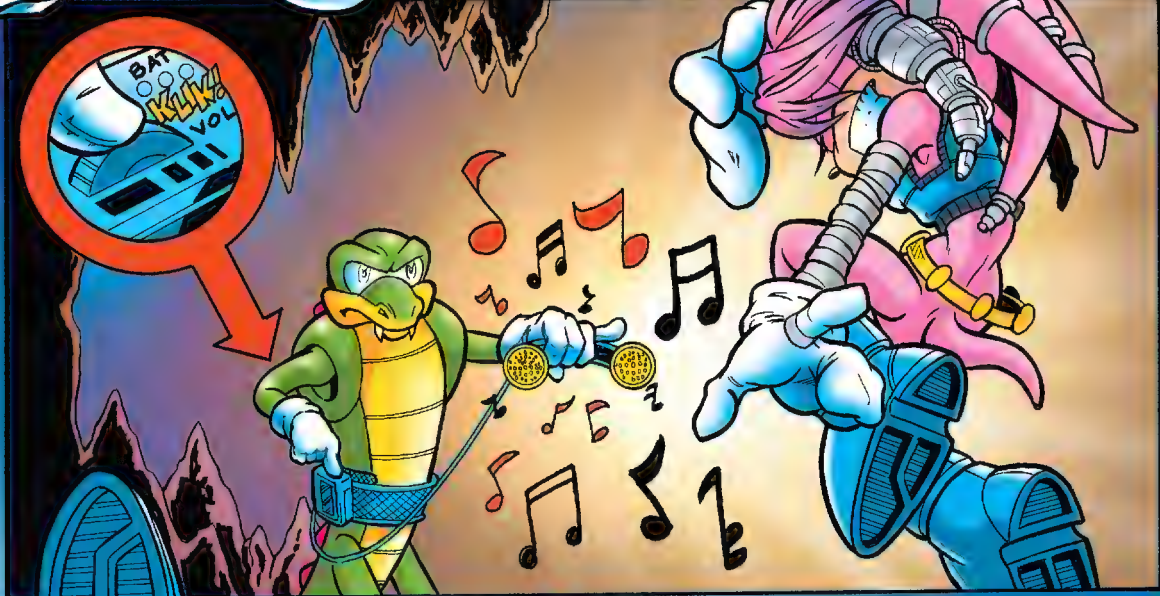
GET A GRIP, VECTOR!

IF YOU THINK FOR ONE MOMENT I'M GOING TO PUT UP WITH YOUR GARBAGE--

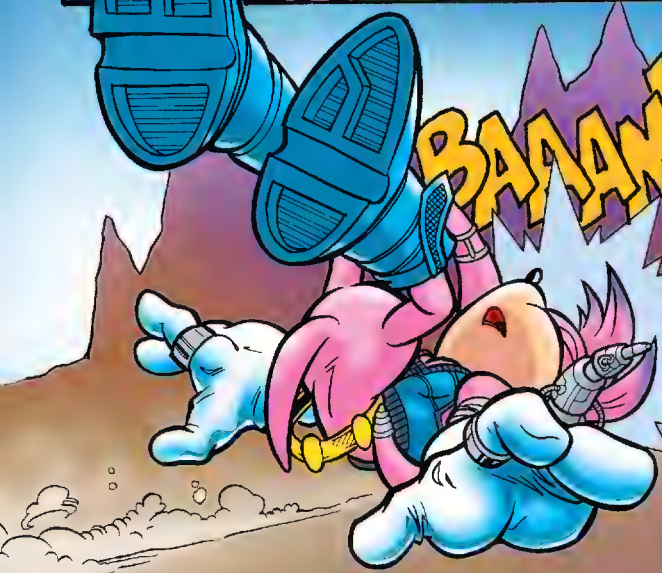


--YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE SORRY CROC!

SEZ WHO? YOU?

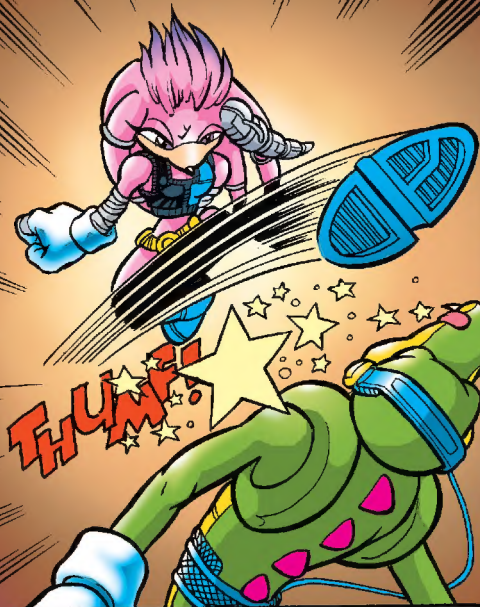


BAAAAAN!



YOU OKAY, BABE?

DIDN'T MEAN TO **BLAST** YA' SO HARD!



NOW I'M COOL!

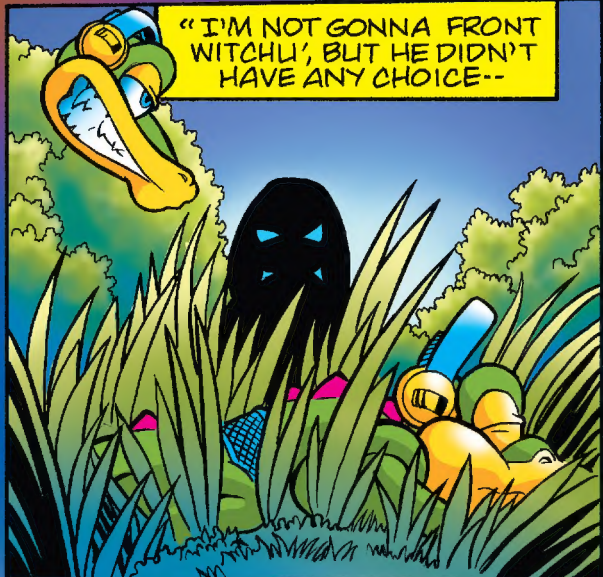
THAT ONE I'LL GIVE YOU--

--AND ONLY BECAUSE THE **KNUXMAN** WAS A **BUD!**



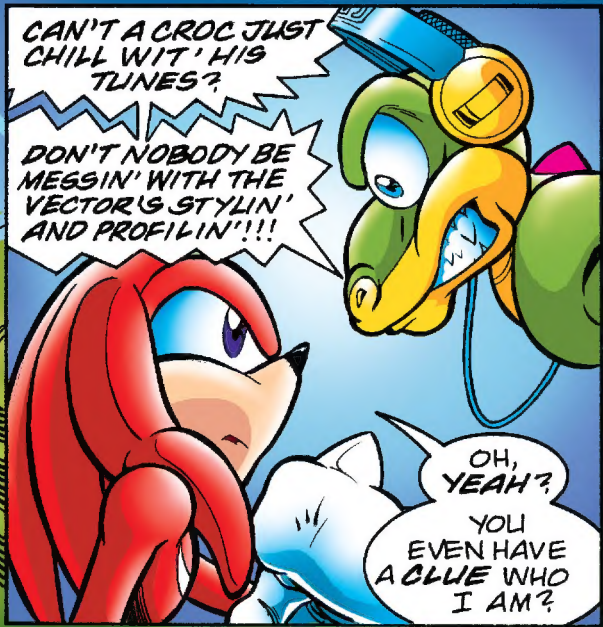
THO' WHAT HE SAW IN YA' I'LL NEVER KNOW!

I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU!



"I'M NOT GONNA FRONT WITCHU', BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE--"

"--'CUZ WHEN HE MET ME, HE FELL ON HIS BUTT!"



CAN'T A CROC JUST CHILL WIT' HIS TUNES?

DON'T NOBODY BE MESSIN' WITH THE VECTOR'S STYLIN' AND PROFILIN'!!!

OH, YEAH?
YOU EVEN HAVE A CLUE WHO I AM?



HEY!!!



DON'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE, CUZ--

YEAH, BUB?

WELL, I'M **KNUCKLES**--

--AND I TAKE CARE OF THINGS AROUND HERE?

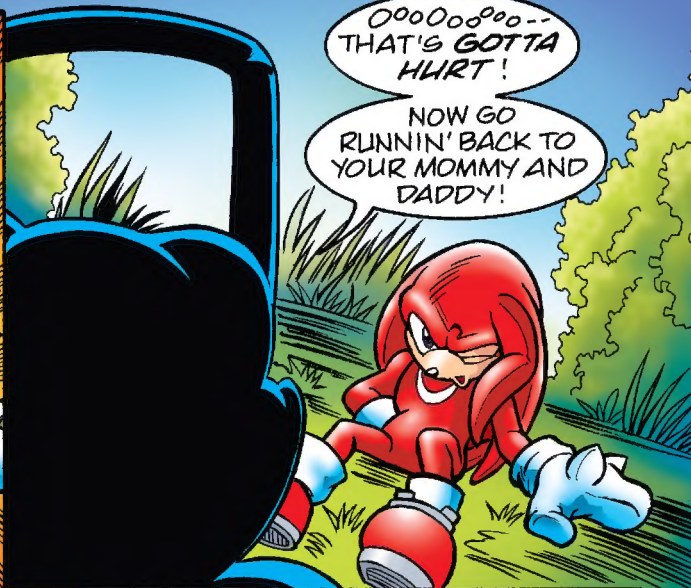
LIKE **WHAT?**

--NOT **EVERYONE** CAN FLOSS WIT' ME,



YOURSELF?!

WHAM!



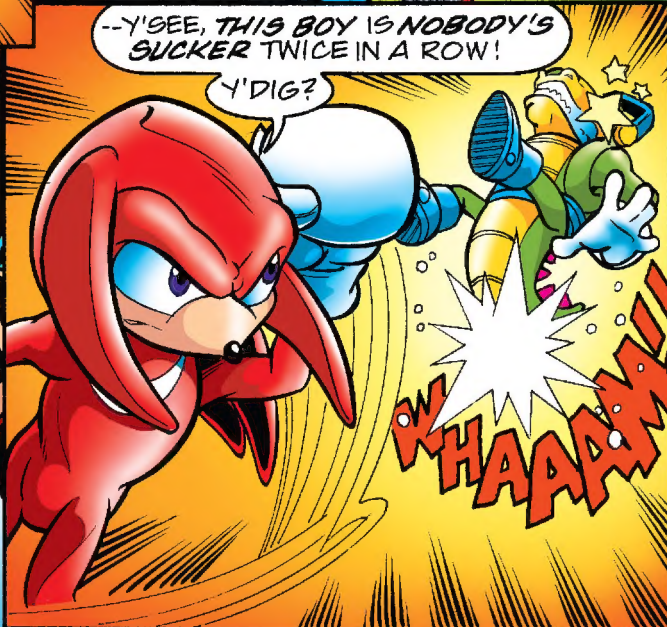
00000000--
THAT'S GOTTA HURT!

NOW GO **RUNNIN' BACK TO YOUR MOMMY AND DADDY!**



I'LL GIVE THAT ONE TO YOU... I WASN'T EXPECTING IT!

BUT THAT **FREEBIE** IS ALL YOU'RE GONNA GET--



--Y'SEE, THIS BOY IS **NOBODY'S SUCKER** TWICE IN A ROW!

Y'DIG?

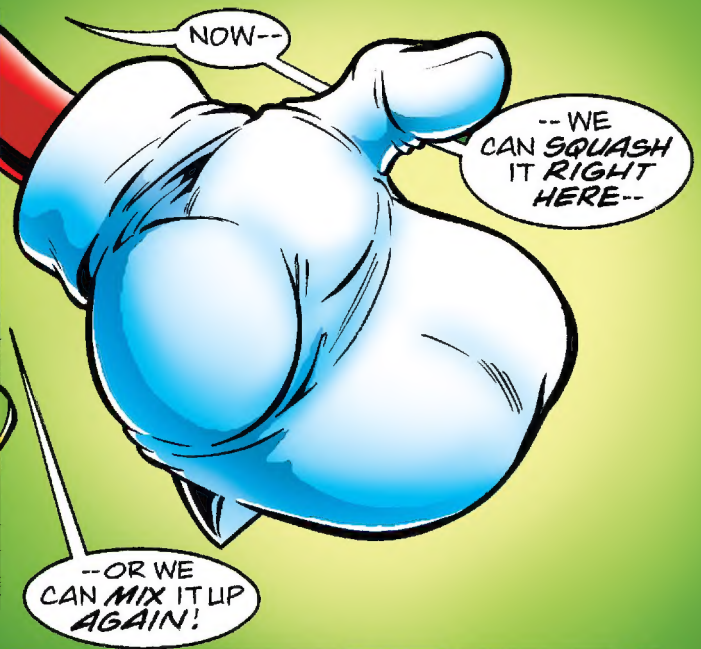
WHAAAAM!!



NOT THE SNOUT, BRO!

OOW!! THAT REALLY HURTS!

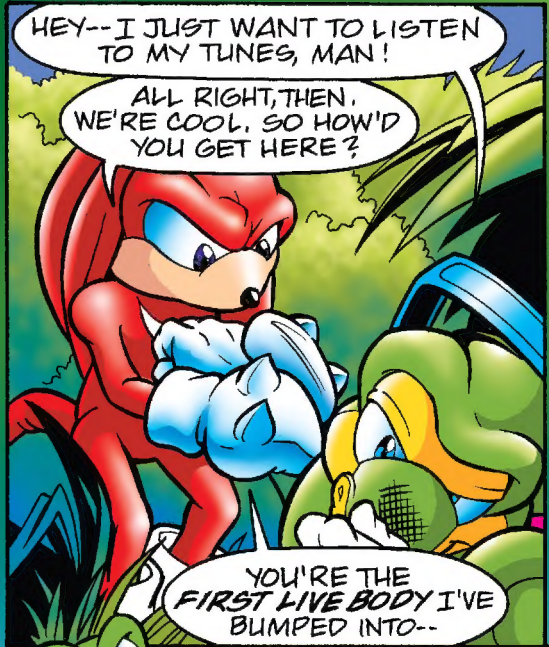
AWWW-- YOU'RE BREAKIN' MY HEART!



NOW--

-- WE CAN SQUASH IT RIGHT HERE--

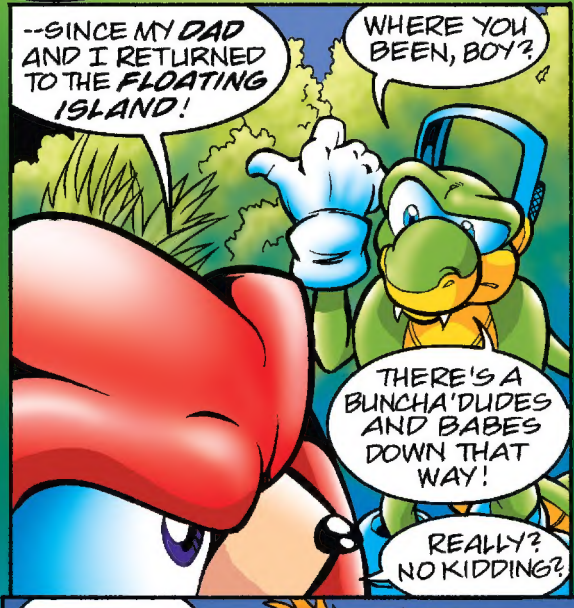
--OR WE CAN MIX IT UP AGAIN!



HEY-- I JUST WANT TO LISTEN TO MY TUNES, MAN!

ALL RIGHT, THEN. WE'RE COOL, SO HOW'D YOU GET HERE?

YOU'RE THE FIRST LIVE BODY I'VE BUMPED INTO--



--SINCE MY DAD AND I RETURNED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND!

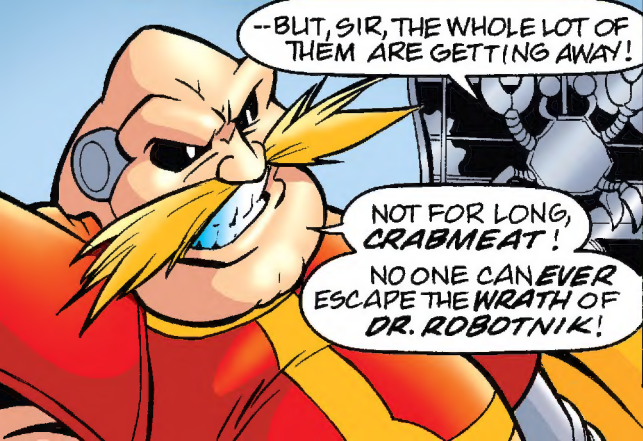
WHERE YOU BEEN, BOY?

THERE'S A BUNCHA'DUIDES AND BABES DOWN THAT WAY!

REALLY? NO KIDDING?!



"YEAH! A PLANE LOAD OF US WERE AIR-LIFTED FROM DOWN BELOW WHEN SOME FREAKER STARTED MESSIN' THINGS UP--"



--BUT, SIR, THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM ARE GETTING AWAY!

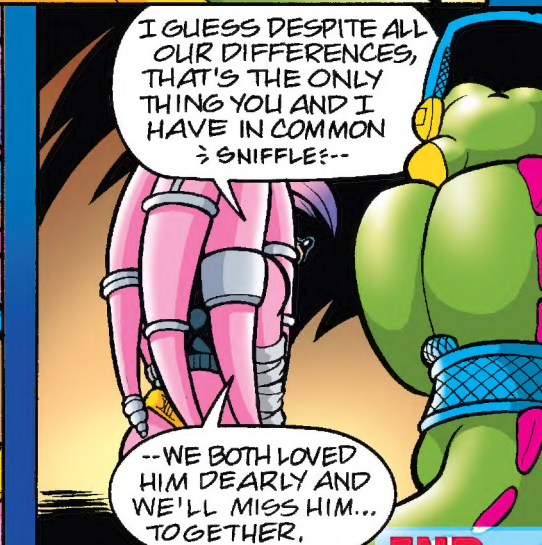
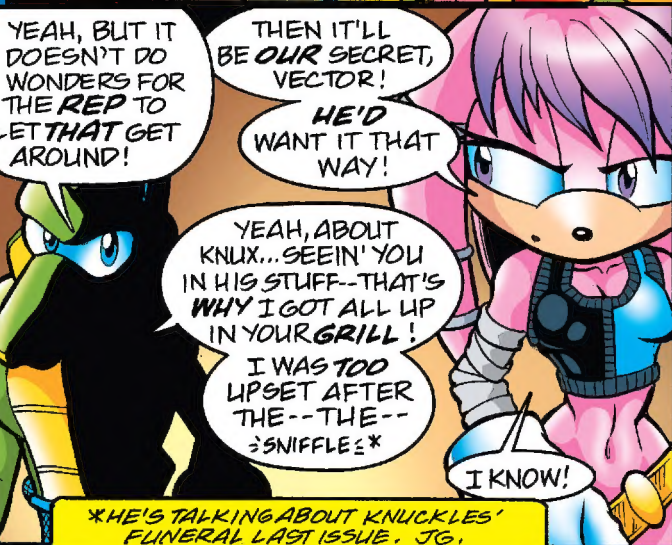
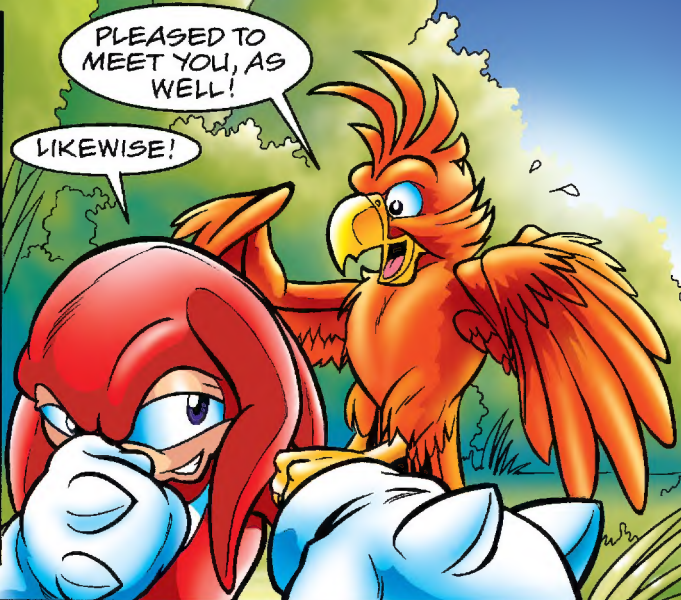
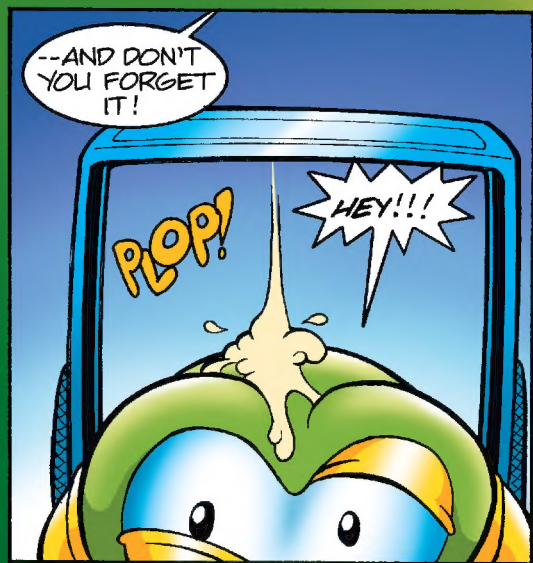
NOT FOR LONG, CRABMEAT!

NO ONE CAN EVER ESCAPE THE WRATH OF DR. ROBOTNIK!



--INCLUDING HIM!

THAT'S MISTER CATWEAZLE TO YOU, VECTOR!



*HE'S TALKING ABOUT KNUCKLES' FUNERAL LAST ISSUE. JG.

END